

WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

FIFTH MEETING

Ottawa, 28-30 May, 1986

WCED/86/CRD 1

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Action Required: For Discussion

May 12, 1986

WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the World Commission on
Environment and Development

FROM: The Secretary General

DATE: 10 May, 1986

RE: PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

1. Since the Brazil Meeting, efforts within the Secretariat have been concentrated on obtaining and concluding the analysis of all studies commissioned by the Secretariat, finalizing the Advisory Panel Reports and drafting chapters of the Commission's Final Report.
2. Meetings and consultations with governments, institutes, NGO's and others have continued; and the Secretariat has been active in support of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and other Commissioners who have been and are in consultations with their and other governments.
3. It is no secret, however, that this period has been unfortunately dominated by a budget and financial crisis, the full dimensions of which did not become evident until after the Brazil meeting. As a result, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, several members of the Commission and the Secretariat as well as Commission advisors have had to spend an inordinate amount of time on fundraising activities, leading up to the donors meeting which took place in Geneva in March. A full report on our fundraising efforts and results to date, as well as on the steps which need to be taken to assure the financial basis of the Commission has been prepared and will be put before the Commission for its review in Canada.

Substantive Work and Advisory Panel Reports

4. Much of the work envisaged under the work programmes approved by the Commission in Jakarta has now been completed and virtually all of the studies commissioned by the Secretariat under each of those (with the exception of those on Security) have been received or will very shortly be received. As a result, we are now very much involved in the synthesis stage of our work.

Energy, Environment and Development

- 4.1 The energy related work of the Commission has come to the end of its first stage. All the background papers commissioned by the Secretariat have been prepared, and most of them are now available in their final versions. They have provided very useful input to the Panel's work, and if you wish they can be made available to you upon request.
- 4.2 With those papers in hand, the Secretariat assisted the Chairman and members of the Advisory Panel in developing a draft of their final report which, following a meeting of Advisory Panel members in Kuwait in March at the invitation of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, was finally agreed during the second week of May. That report will be discussed by the Commission in Canada.
- 4.3 I must congratulate the Panel, its Chairman and the Secretariat staff for the excellent work they have done. The Commission has a good basis on which to consider the directions to be taken on the energy related issues in its own report and following the meeting in Ottawa, work will commence on drafting the corresponding chapter on energy.

Industry, Environment and Development

- 4.4 Work on our Industry Programmes proceeded according to the workplan and timetable adopted by the Advisory Panel on Industry at its first meeting held in September of last year. On April 10 -11, the Advisory Panel met in Geneva for the 2nd time to discuss a draft of its report to the Commission.
- 4.5 A revised draft was prepared and circulated to the Panel members for final comments. The final approved draft is now before you.

- 4.6 I would like to commend the Chairman, the Panel Members and the Secretariat for the effort they have expended on this report. It provides a very effective basis for guidance by the Commission on the treatment of industry and industry related issues in its own report.

Agriculture, Forestry, Food Security, Environment and Development

- 4.7 By mid-January virtually all of the papers commissioned by the Secretariat on these issues had been received and they provided useful background material for the Advisory Panel. All members of the Panel contributed to the drafting of the report, which was finalized following a meeting in Geneva on April 14 -16.
- 4.8 As will be seen from the report, the Panel has identified areas requiring special attention in food security-related environment and development concerns; it has spelt out the objectives and why those objectives are critical; it has singled out obstacles to food security in which policies and distributive patterns of resources receive special focus; it has drawn attention to the nature and extent of the threats to food security and has suggested ways in which future crises could be avoided. More positively, it has made concrete recommendations on how food needs could be met without damage to the life-support systems of land, water, flora and fauna for this and future generations.
- 4.9 I would also like to commend the Chairman and members of this Panel, as well as the Secretariat, for the excellent work that they have done in producing the report, which we will use as a basic resource for drafting the corresponding chapter of the Final Report.

Human Settlements: Environment and Development

- 4.10 Discussion and preparatory work has proceeded in the Secretariat on the draft chapter on Human Settlements and Habitat. In this work, the Secretariat has drawn on the discussions which the Commission had in Sao Paulo and on the papers that were submitted to that meeting.
- 4.11 An action-oriented paper on Rethinking the Third World City will be received shortly by the Secretariat, as well as a revised and expanded

version of the paper on Urbanization and Development which was originally circulated for discussion at the Sao Paulo Meeting. It is expected that a draft chapter on Human Settlements and Habitat will be submitted to the Commission at its next meeting in September.

International Economic Relations and Environment

4.12 Following the Sao Paulo meeting, the Secretariat initiated work on the first draft of the chapter on International Economic Relations. The text went through several drafts and was presented to the ad hoc working group of Commissioners on International Economic Relations in Geneva on 2 - 3 May, with Commissioners Okita, Stanovnik and Strong in attendance. Commissioners Ramphal and Sahnoun were not able to take part, although Mr. Vince Cable of the Commonwealth Secretariat did attend on behalf of Commissioner Ramphal. Based on the comments and suggestions made during that meeting, a revised draft chapter was prepared and forwarded to you for consideration in Ottawa.

4.13 Three commissioned papers on International Economic Relations have been received and forwarded to you for your review as background for the discussion of the draft chapter (WCED/86/ Info. 2, 3, and 4).

Decision Support Systems for Environmental Management

4.14 Work on Decision Support Systems continues. Our two consultants, A. Khosla and P. Thacher, expect to complete the basic papers shortly. They will be discussed at the next meeting within the context of the several chapters of the Commission's report to which they pertain.

International Co-operation

4.15 The Experts' Group on Environmental Law continued its work on the draft "Legal Principles for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development", although it was not able to meet as planned due to financial constraints.

4.16 The report on "The Settlement of Environmental Disputes: A Forward Look" was revised on the basis of the discussion at the last meeting and a fourth draft of the report on relevant legal principles was completed and circulated to the experts for comment. We are awaiting

confirmation of a grant from the Government of the Netherlands to cover the cost of a meeting of the Experts' Group and in anticipation of that confirmation we have now scheduled that meeting in late June to review and finalize proposals for consideration by the Commission at its meeting in September.

Conflict and Security

4.17 Preliminary work on Security and the Environment has been done and we are awaiting the results of a funding request to cover the remaining work before proceeding further. We are optimistic of receiving the necessary funding and as soon as it has been received work will progress.

The Final Report

5. Having obtained the Commission's approval on an Outline of its Final Report in Brazil, the Secretariat has concentrated much of its efforts in preparing draft chapters of the Final Report for consideration by the Commission and in Canada you will be considering::

Chapter I - A Common Concern;

Chapter II - The Environment and Development Connection;

Chapter IV - The Need for Greater International Co-operation; and

Chapter XI - International Economic Relations (to be renumbered as Chapter 12), which has been prepared in conjunction with the Commission's own International Economic Relations working group.

6. Work on drafting Chapter VI - Food Security, Agriculture, Forestry and Environment, Chapter VII - Energy and Sustainable Development and Chapter VIII - Industry and Sustainable Development will commence immediately following the meeting in Ottawa.
7. Work on drafting the remaining Chapters of the Final Report will also continue after the Ottawa Meeting and as many of those drafts as possible will be put before you at the next meeting in September.

Final Report (Popular)

8. In furtherance of the discussions which took place during the meeting in Brazil and in light of the current financial uncertainties facing the Commission, the Secretary General has decided to postpone work on a popularized version of the Commission's Final Report until the fall of this year when the matter may be reconsidered.

Meetings and Consultations since the Brazil Meeting

6. Consultations with governments, ministers, industrial leaders, senior officials and NGO's have continued since the Brazil Meeting:
 - The Chairman has met with the Prime Ministers of Italy, Finland and Sweden to discuss the work of the Commission and their governments' support for it. She has also made presentations on the Commission to the Norwegian Ministry of Development and to the Youth Organization of the Norwegian Labour Party. During April, the Chairman had the occasion during a visit to Atlanta to discuss with Ted Turner of Turner Broadcasting the role of media in communicating the message of the Commission and also attended a conference on US-Soviet relations arranged by the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies in Bermuda and used the occasion to discuss the Commission with leading European parliamentarians and members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. On her return from that conference, the Chairman visited Washington where she met with U.S. congressional, business and NGO leaders. Her visit to Washington was arranged and organized by Commissioner Ruckelshaus' office and she was assisted during her stay by Commissioner Sahnoun.
 - The Vice-Chairman and Commissioner Salim attended a meeting of the IIPC in Nairobi in December of 1985 for discussions on the relationship between the work of the Commission and the IIPC. In addition, the Vice-Chairman represented the Commission at the African Environment Ministers Conference in Cairo in December and since Brazil has called upon various governments, including Egypt, Algeria and Morocco for discussions on the Commission and follow-up of funding requests;

- The Secretary General has visited Canada for meetings with senior government officials and NGO's and during his stay opened a national conference on The Environment and the Economy sponsored by the Economic Council of Canada. He has also submitted a major statement to the Indian Science Congress held in New Delhi in January, met with the Chairman and members of the IIPC in Nairobi, participated in, and made an address to, the InterAction Council Meeting on Environment in Tokyo last month and attended the recent meeting of the OECD Environment Committee in Paris during which he had occasion to discuss the work of the Commission with senior officials of the governments represented.

Relations with IIPC

8. Discussions and dialogue between the Commission and the IIPC have continued since the Brazil meeting. The Vice-Chairman and Commissioner Salim both met with the members of the IIPC in Nairobi in December and the Secretary General also visited Nairobi in March for meetings with the Chairman and members of the IIPC. As a result, much progress has been made in working out the modalities for the Commission's Final Report to be made available to the IIPC and the UNEP Governing Council in time for them to prepare their comments on it before it is submitted to the full General Assembly in the fall of 1987. A full report of my discussions with the IIPC was forwarded to you in my memo of 12 March, 1986. To assist the IIPC in their continuing work on their "Environmental Perspective", copies of all submissions made to the Commission in our Public Hearings and of all commissioned studies received by the Secretariat are regularly made available to them. A further verbal report on the relationship between the Commission and the IIPC will be provided in Canada, both by the Secretary General and by Dr. K. K. S. Rana, the Chairman of the IIPC who, together with several other members of the IIPC, will be meeting with the Commission on Friday, May 30, 1986.

Staff Changes

9. An up-to-date list of the members of the Secretariat and their functions is attached to this report as Annex I. You should note that since Brazil three members of the staff have left, the Programme Planning Officer and a part-time and a full-time member of the secretarial staff. It should be mentioned that as we have now virtually completed the fact finding stage of our work and the final reports

of the Advisory Panels, reductions in the Secretariat staff can be expected in the coming months. In that regard, you should be advised that at least two of the Senior Programme Officers will be leaving the Secretariat by the end of September. Two of our support staff will also be leaving during the course of the summer. Further staff reductions are being considered but the nature of those will depend on the results of our fundraising efforts.

Fundraising and Budgetary Matters

10. As mentioned previously, fundraising and budgetary matters have taken up a considerable amount of the Secretariat's time since the Brazil Meeting. As you know from the Chairman's report to you in early March, by late February it had become clear that several major contributions anticipated in 1986 would not be forthcoming, notably those from the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the United States. As a result we faced an serious and immediate cash flow problem and our long term financial viability was placed in great jeopardy. It was in the light of these developments, that the Chairman decided to call a meeting of the donor countries in March and to intensify efforts to obtain financial support from U.S. foundations. A full report on the Donors' Meeting has been provided to you by the Chairman and a more detailed report on the results of that meeting and of the efforts which the Chairman and others have made to secure funds from U. S. Foundations will be found in the paper on Financial and Budgetary Matters (WCED/86/10).
11. It is important to note here, however, that our financial crisis is real and serious and it could have a significant impact on the Commission's ability to complete its mandate as agreed at the Inaugural Meeting. Over the course of the last few months we have been considering various ways of reducing our costs while at the same time assuring the completion of the Commission's mandate; and these will be discussed with the Commission in more detail in Ottawa.

Future Commission Meeting

12. Arrangements for the Commission's future meetings in Zimbabwe, Moscow and Tokyo have progressed; and I can confirm that the Zimbabwe meeting will be held during the period from September 15 - 21, 1986. The exact schedule within those dates is yet to be determined. The Moscow meeting is still scheduled for the period From December 6 - 13, 1986, although we are still

awaiting official confirmation from the government. The date of the Tokyo meeting has not as yet been set, but will most likely be sometime during the period from February 19 - 28, 1987.

COMMISSION SECRETARIAT

Status Report : May 1986

I. PROFESSIONALS

<u>Incumbent</u>		<u>Position</u>	<u>Areas of Responsibility</u>
Mr. J. MacNeill	(Canada)	Secretary General	
Mr. N. Desai	(India)	Senior Economic Adviser	International Economic Relations
Mr. K. Kato	(Japan)	Programme Director	Energy and Industry
Mr. W.H. Lindner	(USA)	Secretary of the Commission and Director of Administration	Administration
Mr. P. Stone	(UK)	Director	Information
Mr. V. Fernando	(Sri Lanka)	Senior Programme Officer	Agriculture and other
Mr. B. Gosovic	(Yugoslavia)	Senior Programme Officer	Economics, Trade
Ms. S. Muntemba	(Zambia)	Senior Programme Officer	Food Security, Agriculture, Forestry and Environment
Mr. J. Pasztor	(Hungary)	Senior Programme Officer	Energy
Ms. E. Surber	(Switzerland)	Finance and Admin. Officer	Personnel, Finance

II. GENERAL SERVICE STAFF

<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Position</u>
Mrs. B. Baker (Germany/UK)	Secretary to the Secretary General
Ms. T. Dunn (France/USA)	Secretary
Mrs. T. Harmand (Poland/UK)	Secretary
Ms. C. Mayhew (Zimbabwe)	Secretary
Ms. E. Permato (Philippines)	Secretary/Press Assistant
Ms. G. Quesada (Honduras)	Secretary
Mrs. M. Raphoz* (Indonesia/Holland)	Secretary
Mr. S. Vanderwert (Sri Lanka)	Messenger

* Part time

III. SPECIAL ADVISORS

Prof. E. Ayensu (Ghana)	Special Advisor	Food Security, Agriculture, Forestry and Environment
Mr. G. Corea (Sri Lanka)	Special Advisor	Trade
Dr. G. Goodman (UK)	Special Advisor	Energy, Environment and Development
Dr. J.-J. Holst (Norway)	Special Advisor	to Chairman, Security and Environment - Oslo Office
Dr. A. Khosla (India)	Special Advisor	Decision Support Systems, Industry
Mr. R.D. Munro (Canada)	Special Advisor	International Cooperation
Mr. O. Segond (Switzerland)	Special Advisor	Youth

IV. OSLO OFFICE

Ms. A. Loen (Norway)	Secretary to the Chairman
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